Appendix D.3 Core Handling and Labeling

Rock core from geotechnical explorations should be stored in structurally sound core boxes made of wood or corrugated waxed cardboard. Wooden boxes should be provided with hinged lids, with the hinges on the upper side of the box and a latch to secure the lid in a closed position. Waxed cardboard boxes should be protected from the elements and in no instance should they be exposed to rainfall or placed directly upon damp ground.

Cores should be placed in the boxes from left to right, top to bottom. The core should read like a book left to right. When the upper compartment of the box is filled, the next lower compartment (and so on until the box is filled) should be filled, beginning in each case at the left-hand end. The depths of the top and bottom of the core and each noticeable gap in the formation should be marked by a clearly labeled wooden spacer block. Spacers should be placed in the core box to immobilize the core and to keep the core in the correct position. Spacers are necessary due to core loss and when unconfined compression samples are removed from the core. The spacers should be labeled and in the case of core loss the spacer should be placed at the depth of the core loss if known or at the end of the run if not known. Spacers may be wooden blocks, pvc pipe, cardboard tubes, etc. Core box labels and spacers labels should be completed using indelible black marking pens.

Cores should be handled carefully during transfer from barrel to box. Cores should freely come out of the core barrel tube. In the case of shales that tend to swell, it may be necessary to extrude the core from the core barrel. In no case should the core barrel be allowed to be beaten on or thumped against a wooden block. Deliberate breaks of the core are allowed in order to fit the core into the core box.